

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # _____

Project Title: **Pacheco/Santa Clara Conduit Right-of-Way Acquisition Project**

Lead Agency: **Santa Clara Valley Water District**

Contact Person: Michael F. Coleman, AICP

Mailing Address: 5750 Almaden Expressway

Phone: (408) 630-3096

San Jose, CA

Zip: 95118

County: Santa Clara

Project Location: County: **Santa Clara and San Benito Counties**

City/Nearest: City of Morgan Hill

Community: **City of Morgan Hill, City of Gilroy**

Cross Streets: Santa Clara Conduit and Pacheco Conduit (Reclamation Pipeline) runs south from 18300 Peet Rd (Coyote Pumping Plant), towards San Luis Reservoir Zip Code: 95120

Lat. / Long.: 37.156357, -121.635827

Total Acres: N/A linear pipeline

Assessor's Parcel Nos.: **728-340-01**. Pipeline northern end is at Coyote Pumping Plant and runs south into San Benito County and then turns northeast close to SR 152 alignment heading towards San Luis Reservoir.

Within 10 Miles: **State Hwy #:** 101 and 152

Waterways: (Nearest) Coyote Creek

Airports: South County or San Martin Airport

Railways: CALTRAIN, Amtrak, in Morgan Hill and Gilroy

Schools: (Nearest) Nordstrom Elementary School-3700 ft distance from pipeline; Live Oak High School-2400 ft distance from pipeline; Jackson Academy of Music and Math: 2,400 ft distance from pipeline

Document Type:

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--|--------------|---|---------------|---|
| CEQA: | <input type="checkbox"/> NOP | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR | NEPA: | <input type="checkbox"/> NOI | Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR | | <input type="checkbox"/> EA | | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Document |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec | (Prior SCH No.) _____ | | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Separate NEPA) |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mit. Neg Dec | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other Notice of Intent to adopt MND | | <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI - Reclamation EA to follow | | |

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Prezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Conditional Use Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
- Development Type:** _____

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____

Water Facilities:

Minor vault improvements on existing large diameter pipeline (San Felipe System-Bureau of Reclamation) that serves Santa Clara and San Benito Counties: Obtain 10 new easements and establish 23 new travel routes for vehicle access to vaults for maintenance; Construct one new all-weather vehicle path to vault SCC 8; Construct 20 new gravel collars on existing vaults; Construct 5 new driveways; Construct 16 new gates; and install one new sign.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq. ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq. ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Mining: Mineral _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq. ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Power: Type _____ MW _____ |
| Total _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational <input type="checkbox"/> Hazardous Waste: Type _____ | |

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vegetation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minerals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous | Inducement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other – Energy; Fire. | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects |

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation: Present Land Use: residential, rural residential and farm/ranching Zoning: residential, rural residential and farm/ranching.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency, please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Emergency Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CalFire | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>4 & 5</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning (Headquarters) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>3 (Central Coast)</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mountains Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>3 & 4</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Waste Management Board | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date: March 6, 2020 (Friday) Ending Date: April 5, 2020 (Monday)

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable): Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD)

Consulting Firm: N/A Prepared by SCVWD Applicant: SCVWD-Attn: Mike Coleman - (408) 630-3096
Address: _____ Address: 5750 Almaden Expressway
City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: San Jose, CA 95118
Contact: _____ MColeman@valleywater.org

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Michael F. Coleman, AICP Environmental Planner **Date:** 1-8-2021

Pacheco/Santa Clara Conduit Right of Way Acquisition Project

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed South County Pipeline Access Improvements Project (Project) to fulfill the District's lead agency responsibilities under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Draft MND will be released for 30-day public review.

Project Objectives/Project Description

The District proposes to improve the existing pipe vault maintenance and repair access for District work crews through formal agreements with landowners and implement cost-effective physical improvements to vaults and above-ground maintenance sites along the Santa Clara (SCC) and Pacheco (PC) conduits located within Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. The project pipeline is owned by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation and also requires federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approval of its Environmental Assessment (EA) documentation. The NEPA documentation will be released by Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) South Central Office for a separate 30-day public review at a date to be established by BOR following the launch of the District CEQA public review period.

The proposed Project will include improvements to be constructed on and near the existing 37 separate vault locations located along the SCC and PC conduits owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and serving Santa Clara County and San Benito County water agencies. Some of the vaults have more than one project element (e.g., could be any combination of easement acquisition, implementation of a new travel route, installation/construction of one new gravel path to SCC 8, installation/construction of a new gravel collar, installation/construction of a new driveway, installation/construction of new gates, or installation/construction of one new sign) as specified in the MND.

The proposed Project involves the District obtaining easements from private landowners at ten (10) Santa Clara Conduit vault locations and construction of one (1) new vehicle travel path to provide all-weather access to vault site SCC 8. The District also proposes implementation of 23 new off-road travel routes for access to the existing vaults. The change to access this vault keeps vehicles on existing improved and unimproved roadways and would not result in a measurable increase in total distance traveled for the operational and maintenance activities.

Another project element would be to install new gravel collars around twenty (20) existing vaults to allow for safe access by maintenance personnel. The gravel collars would generally measure 32 feet x 32 feet or smaller.

The District will construct five (5) new driveways to provide access from public roads to the vault locations. The District would construct one new sign. Sixteen (16) new gates will be constructed at thirteen (13) separate locations near public roads to provide controlled access to vaults.

The improvements (obtaining easements and new construction), would allow new operational methods of pipeline and vault access and maintenance in areas where existing access is currently limited. The use of District all-terrain vehicles (operational change) would reduce or minimize the impacts from larger vehicles during periods of wet or limiting conditions.

Key Environmental Impacts

The Draft MND identified less than significant environmental impacts with Mitigation to include biology and paleontological resources and Wildfire topics. Other impacts range from less than significant to no impact with implementation of District Best Management Practices (BMPs) built into the project, and Habitat Conservation Plan (VHP) Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs), and VHP Conditions applied in the Santa Clara County portion of the Project.

BMPs and Mitigation Measures would be implemented in the San Benito County (there is no HCP available in this region) project sites resulting in no significant impacts from the Project.

As discussed in the Cultural Resources Section of the MND, although no historic resources were identified, there is a moderate potential of discovering unrecorded paleontological resources in the proposed Project area. These resources, if present, could be disturbed during construction of the Project.

The District and the Bureau of Reclamation found no Tribal Cultural Resources listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. Tribal Cultural Resources were also not found initially on a local register of historical resources identified in the Project vicinity. The cultural resources records research at Sonoma State University also did not identify presence of Tribal Cultural Resources at the proposed Project sites.

An AB 52 Tribal Consultation with the Santa Clara Valley Water District and Muwekma Ohlone Tribal leadership was begun on February 27, 2019 and one meeting between the Tribe and the District occurred on March 15, 2019 at District offices. With discussion between the parties, the AB 52 process was closed on April 16, 2019 given the lack of documented evidence of onsite cultural resources that are potential tribal cultural resources and the limitation of impacts to various access area. Mutual Agreement was reached between the District and the Tribe that there are no tribal cultural resources mitigation measures required other than best management practices (specifically District BMP CU-1) because the proposed project would not result in significant impacts on tribal cultural resources.

All project excavation activities must comply with standard precautionary measures for accidental discovery of unknown finds consistent with BMP CU-1 (cultural resources) and with implementation of Mitigation Measures CU-1 impacts to unknown paleontological resources would be less than significant. The Project would not eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. If any of these

unknown resources are encountered during construction, the BMP's and mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the impact on these resources to a level of less-than-significant.

Analysis of the project has shown that implementation of the project would have less than a significant impact to aesthetics, air quality, agriculture and forestry resources, geology, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, tribal cultural resources and utilities/service systems.

Next Steps

Consistent with CEQA and District environmental review procedures, the environmental review process and Project is expected to proceed according to the following schedule.

CEQA

- Start of 30-day public review period Friday, January 8, 2021
- End of public review period Friday, February 8, 2021
- Staff request for Board adoption of Final MND June/July 2021

NEPA (By Bureau of Reclamation) Environmental Assessment (EA)

- Start of 30-day public review period Spring/Summer 2021,
- End of public review period 30 days post
- Findings of No Significance (FONSI) Fall/Winter 2021

PERMITS

- CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) in Santa Clara County Spring/Summer 2021
- BA/BO USFWS Spring/Summer 2021
- VHP conformance Spring/Summer 2021
- Incidental Take (California Tiger Salamander in San Benito County) from CDFW Spring/Summer 2022

CONSTRUCTION

- Construction (2 calendar year dry seasons) Beginning Dry Season or Summer 2021
Beginning Dry Season or Summer 2022

Prior to approving the project, CEQA requires the District Board to review and consider the information contained in the Final MND. Board adoption of the Final ND will indicate the District's formal commitment to implement the Project.